

Individual residential water wells normally provide safe drinking water. Unfortunately, a well may become contaminated with harmful bacteria (fecal coliform). The harmful contaminants can enter a well site through flooding, a crack in the well casing, or a broken or missing sanitary seal or well cap.



One way to clear the problem of harmful bacteria is disinfection. This process uses a gallon of regular household bleach. Disinfection should clear the problem. If the water remains contaminated with bacteria, you may need to contact your District Environmental Quality Control Office for further assistance.

Environmental Quality Control District Offices

Appalachia I
(Anderson, Oconee)
2404 N. Main Street
Anderson, SC 29621
(864) 260-5569

Appalachia II
(Greenville, Pickens)
301 University Ridge,
Suite 5800
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 241-1090

Appalachia III
(Cherokee, Spartanburg,
Union)
975 N. Church Street
Spartanburg, SC 29303
(864) 596-3800

Catawba
(Chester, Lancaster,
York)
2475 DHEC Road
Lancaster, SC 29720
(803) 285-7461

Central Midlands
(Fairfield, Lexington,
Newberry, Richland)
Building #5
State Park, SC 29147
(803) 896-0620

Low Country
(Beaufort, Colleton,
Hampton, Jasper)
1313 Thirteenth Street
Rort Royal, SC 29935
(843) 522-9097

Lower Savannah
(Aiken, Allendale,
Bamberg, Barnwell,
Calhoun, Orangeburg)
206 Beaufort St , NE
Aiken, SC 29801
(803) 641-7670

Pee Dee
(Chesterfield, Darlington,
Dillon, Florence, Marion,
Marlboro)
145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
(843) 661-4825

Trident
(Berkeley, Charleston,
Dorchester)
2470 Air Park Road
N. Charleston, SC29406
(843) 740-1590

Upper Savannah
(Abbeville, Edgefield,
Greenwood, Laurens,
McCormick, Saluda)
613 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
(864) 223-0333

Waccamaw
(Georgetown, Horry,
Williamsburg)
1705 Oak Street Plaza,
Suite 2
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
(843) 448-1902

Wateree
(Clarendon, Kershaw,
Lee, Sumter)
105 N. Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 778-6548



Residential

Well

Disinfection



Materials Needed:

- One gallon of non-scented household liquid bleach;
- rubber gloves;
- eye protection;
- old clothes; and
- a funnel.



Before Disinfection:

Check the condition of your well. Make sure there is no exposed or damaged wiring. If you notice any damage call a professional before the disinfection process.



Steps In Disinfecting A Well:

1. If your water is muddy or cloudy, run the water from an outside spigot with a hose attached until the water becomes clear and free of sediments.



2. Determine what type of well you have and how to pour the bleach into the well. Some wells have a sanitary seal with either an air vent or a plug that can be removed (a).



or dug well, the entire cover can be lifted off to provide a space for pouring the bleach into the well (b).

3. Take the gallon of bleach and funnel (if needed) and carefully pour the bleach down into the well casing.



4. After the bleach has been added, run water from an outside hose into the well casing until you smell chlorine coming from the hose. Then turn off the outside hose.



5. Turn on all cold water faucets, inside and outside of house, until the chlorine odor is detected in each faucet, then shut them all off. If you have a water treatment system, switch it to bypass before turning on the indoor faucets.



6. Wait 6 to 24 hours before turning the faucets back on. It is important not to drink, cook, bath or wash with this water during the time period — it contains high amounts of chlorine.

7. Once the waiting period is up, turn on an outside spigot with hose attached and run the water into a safe area where it will not disturb plants, lakes, streams, or septic tanks. Run the water until there is no longer a chlorine odor. Turn the water off.



8. The system should now be disinfected and you can now use the water.

9. It is recommended to have your water tested for bacteria 7 to 10 days after disinfection. You can pick up a water sample kit at your local SC DHEC office.

